force so as to effect a proper distribution of work as between the Magistrates at Minachil and Ettumanur and the District Magistrate has reported that the existing arrangement is very satisfactory.

Re. the establishment of a police station in the Uzhavur *pakuthi*, the Commissioner of Police is of opinion that it is unnecessary. Since, however, you want only a Police sub-station there, Government will address the Police Commissioner again.

Re. the Lalam bridge, the work has not been begun yet. The Chief Engineer has noted your representation and he will take early steps for starting the work.

165. Certain concessions to real Malayala Brahmin Jenmies.

Mr. Narayanaru Krishnaru (Member, Jenmi, Trivandrum Division) stated that the Malayala Brahmin jenmies constituted an important community with large interests in the State. But their lack of English education placed them in a position of great disadvantage. The policy of the Government was to encourage the classes which were backward in the matter of education and admission to the public service and this policy had materially benefited Pulayas, Mahomedans and other communities similarly situated. The encouragement given to the Malayala Brahmin jenmies who were equally backward in point of education was, however, very poor. They were not adequately represented in popular institutions like the Legislative Council, the Municipal Councils, the Panchayat Courts and the Bench Magistrates' courts. Their position as owners of a major portion of the lands in the State required that they should be better represented in the above bodies. The Member complained that the Municipal Councils caused great hardship to his community by sanctioning the opening of lanes through the lands of jenmies without consulting them and by taxing places of worship as if they were ordinary buildings. He prayed that Government be pleased to nominate one Jenmi member to each of the Municipal Councils, the Panchayat courts and the Bench Magistrate courts in the State and to sanction an additional member each to the Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council. The Member also pointed out that there was a great deal of confusion resulting from the fact that both the South Canara Brahmins and the real Malayala Brahmin jenmies were known as *potties*, and requested that the claims of the latter be separately taken into consideration in the matter of political privileges.

In conclusion, the Member suggested the appointment of a committee for ascertaining who the real Malayala Brahmins were, and also to see that only real Malayala Brahmin pupils were admitted into the Special School at Kulakkada for them.

President's reply.—As regards the admission of pupils who are not true Malayala Brahmins into the Kulakkada special school, Government would enquire into your allegations. You suggest the appointment of a committee composed of true Malayala Brahmins to see that only the members of your community are admitted into the special schools. This suggestion will be noted.

With regard to the question of appointing qualified Malayala Brahmins in the public service, I may say that, consistent with efficiency, qualification, character and other requisites of public servants, the policy of the Government at present is to give equal opportunities to all communities in the service. You have not given specific instances of any breach of this rule and your general remarks cannot be answered. As regards the representation of true Malayala Brahmins in the several popular institutions, your suggestion will be noted for consideration.

164. Some suggestions for the elevation of the depressed classes.

Mr. N. J. Joseph (Member, Nominated) represented that the necessity for changing the race names 'Pulayar' and 'Parayar' into 'Cheramar' and 'Sambavar' was pointed out in the 17th, 18th and 19th sessions of the Assembly. The Mar Thoma Syrian Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church had recognised that change. The Member prayed that orders be issued for the terms 'Cheramar' and 'Sambavar' instead of 'Pulayar' and 'Parayar' being used in all official correspondence and for a notification being issued on the lines of the notification regarding the change of the caste name 'Shanar' into 'Nadar'.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

As the people of his community did not obtain adequate medical aid, the Member suggested that the Darbar Physician and the Sanitary Commissioner might be ordered to examine the condition of the depressed classes periodically and to submit proposals for improving the same.

The so-called Christian communities of Travancore were not a single homogeneous racial body, but only a heterogeneous religious body consisting of Cheramar, Sambavar, Siddhanar, Pandyar, Aiyanavar, and other races different from one another in their origin, history, traditions, occupations, temperaments and social customs, and the Member thought that serious injustice would be done to those communities if they were treated under the general category of Christians. The Member therefore requested that the claims of each of those communities for representation in the public service be considered separately, and an age limit of 28 instead of 25 be allowed to them for admission to the service.

The Member also requested that five students of the depressed classes who had passed the compounders' examination be provided with suitable appointments in the Medical Department in preference to qualified students from the advanced communities.

He then made the following suggestions :—

(1) The Sambavars of Nanjinad, Edanad and the Shencottah taluk should be exempted from the operation of the rules regarding ryots' roads, as they were one of the depressed classes standing in need of special help from Government, and the roads leading to their villages should be constructed and maintained at Government expense as agricultural roads.

(2) The wells required for the Sambavar villages in Nanjinad, Edanad and the Shencottah taluk should be sunk at Government cost, as was done by Government in the case of higher classes.

(3) Government should subscribe for twelve copies of the *Sambavar Nesan*, the official organ of the Travancore Sambavar Sangham, by way of encouragement to the Sambavar community.

(4) Government should give a grant of Rs. 25 per mensem to the satrom put up at Cape Comorin by Mr. Arulanatan Sambavar of Narikkulam for the use of all the depressed classes, as those classes were not allowed to occupy the Sirkar satrom at the Cape.

(5) Government should pass early orders for the 25 acres of *puduval* land already sanctioned by them in favour of the Travancore Sambavar Sangham without *taravila*, being registered and handed over to it as early as possible.

(6) Government should nominate every year one member at least to represent the interests of the Sambavar community in the Assembly, as the strength of the community was as high as 1,50,000.

The Member next conveyed the thanks of the members of the Travancore Ancient Dravidian Races' League for the proposal to appoint a special officer to look after the interests of the depressed classes and expressed his desire that the appintment be conferred on the present Land Revenue Commissioner who would be the fittest person for the purpose, as he, more than any other, could satisfy the vital need of providing dwelling sites to the depressed classes. He reiterated what Mr. Paradi Abraham Isaac had already represented about the difficulties and hardships experienced by the depressed classes in getting concessional grants of land under the Puduval Rules and requested that early steps might be taken for the removal of those difficulties. While on the subject, the Member said that all available good lands in the State had been taken up by rich men and the only good lands the depressed classes could hope to obtain were those to be disafforested from the reserved forests. He therefore requested that all such lands be exclusively set apart for the depressed classes who, the Member said, would be prepared to pay *taravila* for such lands in seven equal annual instalments. He then pointed out that, in the reserved forests of the *pakuthies* of Pattanapuram, Ezhumattur, Kanjirapalli South and Mundakayam, there were large areas fit for cultivation. Those lands were being encroached upon by the neighbouring inhabitants in violation of the Forest Rules and the Government were

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

not getting any revenue therefrom. He suggested that such lands might be assigned to the depressed classes.

The Member next urged the necessity for providing dwelling sites in the suburbs of towns and villages to the landless members of the depressed classes. He said that, in such parts of the State, lands could be had by the depressed classes only on lease, and that, when the periods of the leases ran out, the landlords demanded exorbitant renewal fees, since they were naturally reluctant to part with the ownership of the lands. Such being the case, the depressed classes had to live a life of bondage doing labour for others. Concessional grants at the rate of 3 acres of land per family in out of the way localities could not alone alleviate their distress. The assignment of lands in distant places would tend to draw away the labouring depressed classes from towns and villages where their labour would be sorely required and thereby disorganise the economic life of the people. In view to safeguard the interests of the public against such a contingency and promote the welfare of the depressed classes, the Member prayed that steps be taken by the Government to acquire lands near towns and villages and colonise the depressed classes in convenient localities, so that their labour might be made available at any moment to the public at large. Such a step, he said, would tend to a more equitable distribution of land in the State which had accumulated in the hands of a few well-to-do communities. He therefore suggested that enquiries might be made throughout the State in view to acquire lands in those localities where labour would be mostly required by the public and to assign such lands as village sites to the depressed classes. He also suggested that the compensation for such lands might be paid by the Government in the first instance and that the same be recouped from the assignees in five or six yearly instalments.

The Member next said that the depressed classes in Kuttanad and other water-logged places were badly in need of dwelling sites. As the paddy cultivation in those places was carried on entirely by the labour of those people, it was absolutely necessary to provide them with house sites, and he requested that the Government might, at their expense, acquire suitable places and hand them over to the depressed classes. He stated that there were large areas of wet lands available for registry in the Takazhi and Purakad *pakuthies* of the Ambalapuzha taluk, and in the Talayazham and Vetchur *pakuthies* of the Vaikam taluk. He prayed that those lands might be exclusively assigned to members of the depressed classes.

The Member next represented that the establishment of Co-operative Societies among the depressed classes which numbered about 7 lakhs, consisting of Cheramars, Sambavars, Siddhanars, Pandyars, Aiyanavars, Vedars, Kanikars, etc., was very essential for the uplift of those people, and that, to achieve that object, Co-operative Inspectors must be appointed from among the educated members belonging to those classes. He suggested that Government should bear the travelling expenses of those Inspectors.

He next said that the depressed classes had established Sanghams for their material and moral advancement. As the object of those Sanghams or associations was purely charitable and since those associations were not working for profit, the Member requested the Government to reduce the fee for registering them and fix it at Rs. 5.

The Member then submitted that there was no statutory provision for the interests of the Cheramar, Sambavar and Siddhanar communities being adequately represented in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, though the numerical strength of those communities was 4 lakhs, 1½ lakhs and one lakh respectively. He requested that those depressed communities numbering one lakh and more might be separately represented in the Assembly. The Member then explained the constitution of the Travancore Ancient Dravidian Races' League and said that it had been established on a racial basis for the promotion of the educational, social, moral and economic advancement of the Cheramar, Sambavar, Pandyar, Siddhanar, Aiyanavar, Vedar and Kanikar communities. As the present method of nomination from one or other of those communities to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council was highly unsatisfactory, the best course would be for the Government to consult their League

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

through its executive committee. In speaking particularly about the Vedar and Kanikkar communities, the Member said that their number was 30,000 and 15,000 respectively and requested that two members might be deputed from those communities to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly in consultation with the Travancore Vedar Sangham and the Travancore Kanikar Sangham. The Member also prayed that the usual grant-in-aid be paid for a school conducted by the Vedars for the past three years.

The next topic was the representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly of the interest of labour in the planting districts. Since the wants and wishes of those depressed classes were not being properly placed before the Assembly at present, the Member requested that at least two members might be nominated from among those communities. Speaking about the disabilities of the Pandyan community, the Member requested that his representation at the previous session of the Assembly to include the Pandyan community among the depressed classes entitled to fee concessions might be considered favourably and orders passed. The Pandyan community should also be given the benefit of the Puduval Rules under which lands were registered on concessional terms to members of the depressed classes. He then mentioned the case of one R. P. Dorai Raj, a Pandyan student who had secured an English School Leaving Certificate of the Madras Government after prosecuting his studies in the C. M. S. High School at Ramnad. The Member pleaded that he might be given admission to the local Pleadership class and given a monthly scholarship of Rs. 15, as also full remission of school fees. Thus, the depressed classes should be encouraged to pursue their studies. He pointed out that a similar concession was being granted to a Sambavar student who was studying in the Pleadership class.

President's reply.—Your suggestion that the special officer proposed to be appointed to look after the needs of the depressed classes should be the Land Revenue Commissioner himself will be noted for consideration.

Your representation *in re.* the change of the name of Pulaya into "Cheramar", and Paraya into "Sambavar" will also receive consideration.

With regard to the registry of swamps and *puduvals* in favour of the depressed classes, your suggestions are noted for consideration and the Government will address the Land Revenue Commissioner as regards the difficulties experienced by the members of the depressed classes at the hands of the revenue subordinates in the matter of *puduval* registry.

As regards the reduction of the fee for registration of associations of the depressed classes to Rs. 5, I may say that a similar proposal is under the consideration of the Government and that your request will be considered sympathetically in that connection.

As regards your suggestions on the subject of the representation of the depressed classes in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council, the nomination of a member from the hill districts to represent the grievances of the poor labourers there, and the inspection by the Darbar Physician and the Sanitary Commissioner of the habitations of the members of the depressed classes, all your suggestions have been noted for consideration.

About the students belonging to your community who have not been appointed as compounders after training, the Darbar Physician will be addressed.

As regards your suggestion that the rule regarding the assignment of *puduval* lands on concessional terms to the members of certain depressed classes should be extended to the Pandyans, I may say that their name will also be added to the list of the depressed classes entitled to such concessions.

165. Concessions to the Hindu depressed classes.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) first submitted that their caste name should not be changed. He represented that it was not possible for the depressed classes like Pulayas, Kuravas, etc., to exist without the special support of the Government. Having understood that the Government were going to appoint a

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly